

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 VICTOR 00312 071126Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NASA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

/063 W

-----071136Z 096209 /20

O P 071049Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

TO SECSTATE WASH DC IMMEDIATE 397

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

STATE

S E C R E T VICTORIA 312

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, SE, US

SUBJECT: SEYCHELLES COUP D'ETAT: DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION

REF: A) STATE 130273

B) STATE 129481

C) VICTORIA 309

1. FOLLOWING ASSESSMENT OF DEGREE OF EFFECTIVE CONTROL PRESENTLY EXERCISED BY SEYCHELLES' REGIME HEADED BY FORMER PRIME MINISTER RENE.

2. AT PRESENT, FORCES LOYAL TO RENE (COMPOSED STILL ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY

OF ARMED CIVILIANS) EXERCISE EFFECTIVE CONTROL OVER MAHE ISLAND WHERE 90 PER CENT OF COUNTRY'S 60,000 PEOPLE LIVE. AS NOTED PREVIOUS REPORTING, WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ON SECURITY SITUATION ON OTHER ISLANDS. MANCHAM'S SUPPORTERS ARE STILL STUNNED AND IN DISARRAY AND IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT SUCCESSFUL COUNTER COUP WOULD BE MOUNTED WITHOUT EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE. RENE'S REGIME REMAINS VIGILANT TO SUCH A POSSIBILITY BUT ITS FORCES ARE EXTREMELY THIN ON THE GROUND. VIRTUALLY ALL POLICEMEN HAVE AGREED TO SUPPORT REGIME.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 VICTOR 00312 071126Z

CONSIDER THIS ACTION BY POLICEMEN MORE A SIGN OF FEAR OF DISCHARGE AND POSSIBLE RETRIBUTION THAN POLITICAL ORIENTATION. IN ANY EVENT, UNDERSTAND REGIME NOT PLANNING DISTRIBUTE ARMS TO THEM.

3. EXPECT RENE WILL NOW MOVE METHODICALLY TO STRENGTHEN AND WIDEN HIS GRIP ON COUNTRY BUT PERIOD OF INSTABILITY INEVITABLE. ANTI-REGIME ACTIVITIES (I.E., SABOTAGE, ARSON) WOULD MOST

LIKELY BE CHARACTERIZED BY ISOLATED ACTIONS. BARRING FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT IN SUPPORT OF MANCHAM, BELIEVE REGIME (THOUGH NOT INDIVIDUAL LEADERS) HAS REASONABLE CLAIM TO PERMANENCE.

4. ABOVE ASSESSMENT BASED ON INFORMATION AND BASED ON IMPRESSIONS AVAILABLE ONLY TWO DAYS AFTER TAKE OVER AND IT MIGHT BE PRUDENT TO WAIT A LITTLE LONGER. ON OTHER HAND, DEPARTMENT MAY CONSIDER THAT STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF SEYCHELLES, USG INTERESTS AND DESIREABILITY TO ENTER QUICKLY INTO NORMAL RELATIONS WITH NEW GOVERNMENT DICTATE EARLY RECOGNITION. OBVIOUSLY LOCAL POSITION OF EMBASSY WOULD BENEFIT FROM BEING ABLE ENTER INTO FORMAL CONTACT.

5. AS THIS MESSAGE BEING DRAFTED, EMBASSY HAS NOT YET BEEN APPROACHED ON RECOGNITION QUESTION.

6. FYI: ACCORDING FRENCH CHARGE, POLICY OF FRENCH GOVERNMENT IS TO RECOGNIZE COUNTRY AND NOT SPECIFIC GOVERNMENT. HE HAS SENT MESSAGE TO PARIS REQUESTING VERIFICATION HIS UNDERSTANDING.
MATTSON

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, RECOGNITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977VICTOR00312
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770202-0440
Format: TEL
From: VICTORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770681/aaaacsyo.tel
Line Count: 81
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6e193a83-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 130273
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2241172
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SEYCHELLES COUP D'ETAT: DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION
TAGS: PDIP, SE, US, (RENE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6e193a83-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009